

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

15

DECISION

TOPIC

Lake Rathbun Section 1135 Corps of Engineers Habitat Restoration Project

The Department requests Commission approval of Phase III of the Lake Rathbun Section 1135 Habitat Restoration Project per our amended and approved 2001 Project Cooperation Agreement. Seven identified shoreline sites will be stabilized to reduce 5,000 tons of annual sediment delivery to the lake. These prioritized shoreline areas will not only improve water quality but help protect valuable fish spawning sites. DNR fisheries research and management staff identified and recommended these seven shoreline sites be stabilized. Federal Corps of Engineers funding totaling \$ 5.85 million dollars will be matched with \$ 540,000 of budgeted DNR Lake Restoration funds (\$274,000 FY09 and \$266,000 FY10). An additional \$ 150,000 of State MFT funding was allocated in May of 2006 for COE engineering and design needs. Lake Rathbun is currently being lowered four feet below conservation pool so this shoreline stabilization work can be initiated. Phase III approval also will allow Wetland Cell S-13 to be constructed. DNR engineering staff will complete final design and the COE will fund the estimated \$ 225,000 construction cost (DNR work-in-kind and land credits cover our project contribution).

Mike Mason, Interim Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 12, 2009